



How Healthy Is Our Healthcare?

BY THE NUMBERS

10.6
million

Children
younger than 5
who die each
year from
preventable
causes

99%

Deaths of
mothers and
young kids that
occur in
developing
countries

70%

Child deaths
caused by these
preventable
conditions:
problems with
childbirth,
pneumonia,
diarrhea,
malaria, measles
and HIV/AIDS

46
million

Number of
Americans
without health
insurance

18,000

Unnecessary
deaths every
year in the U.S.
due to lack of
health insurance

Sources: World
Health Organization,
National Coalition
on Health Care



HEALTH HELP: Iranian-American Muslims set up a free health clinic in Salt Lake City, Utah, to serve poor people who work but can't afford health care.

By ANN-MARIE SEVCSIK

If a doctor from the 1940s traveled in a time machine to 2006, he would struggle to recognize the medicines now available for conditions ranging from cancer to pimples.

But a doctor from the 1940s would easily recognize the available medicines and vaccines for some diseases, because the tools for fighting them haven't been updated. These diseases are considered neglected—by drug companies that have the resources to produce treatments, and by governments that have the means to fund health research.

Neglected diseases primarily affect the poor and the powerless in many developing countries in Africa, Asia, and South America. The numbers of people affected by these diseases are enormous, but

**Neglected
diseases
primarily
affect
the poor.**

because the poor cannot afford to purchase expensive medications, they do not represent a market for drug companies. And governments have been slow to help out.

Hope has appeared in the new millennium. For the first time, drug companies such as sanofi-aventis are cooperating with non-profit organizations like the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative to develop easy-to-use, low-cost medications. And, just this month, governments of the 192-nation World Health Organization made a breakthrough by agreeing to develop a global plan of action for neglected diseases research.

For ideas on what you can do, go to Kids for World Health: www.kfwh.org

Anne-Marie Sevcsik works as a medical writer for Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative.

RICH NATION, POOR HEALTH

By AMANDA VENDER

THE UNITED STATES spends double the amount of money per person on healthcare that other developed countries spend. So we should be pretty healthy, right? Nope. A new study published in the May 3 *Journal of the American Medical Association* shows that overall, older people in the U.S. are sicker than older people in England, and we're more likely to develop diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, cancer and high blood pressure.

The current U.S. healthcare system is complicated and requires that people, or

their employer, buy health insurance from a company that then pays a portion of a patient's medical bills. Within this for-profit system, health insurance companies and drug makers make large amounts of money. But roughly 16 percent of the population and 11 percent of kids have no health insurance.

To be uninsured is a risk. People without insurance are less likely to go to the doctor because they don't want a big medical bill they cannot afford.

One way to provide healthcare for all people is through a government-funded not-for-profit healthcare system. This system would save money by reducing wasteful management and advertising costs, and instead focus on helping people stay healthy. There have been some attempts to pass a law forming a national health care system, but so far they have failed.

Meet Akil from Pakistan

Name: Akil Uram, 11

Home: Ayubi village in the Northwest Frontier Province, Pakistan

Language: Urdu, Hindoka; some Pashtun and English

Religion: Islam **Favorite subject in school:** English

Favorite foods: Mangoes, rice

Siblings: Akil has four brothers and three sisters

Father's job: A farmer of potatoes and corn

What would you like to say to kids in the U.S.?: "I want to say thank you to American kids for collecting money for earthquake relief. They helped us build a temporary school and get chairs and beds."

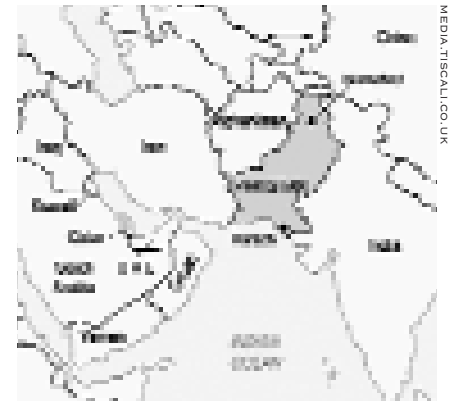
Akil also told us about his experience in the earthquake last fall: "I was at school. It happened during English class. There was a big movement and we all ran outside. The headmaster told us to start praying. The building collapsed, but only three children were hurt. Later, I went home and found out that my mother had been killed when our house collapsed." **-CLP**



Learn a little Urdu

سیکھنا
(learn)

Hello: Salaam-a-Laikum
Dog: Kutha
Cat: Billi
Good Bye: Khuda Hafiz
Book: Kitab
Boy: Larka
Rice: Chawal
Girl: Larhki



IN PAKISTAN, KIDS WANT TO STUDY, NOT MAKE BRICKS

'WE ARE FREE'

By SARAH STUTEVILLE

Instead of spending her free time practicing cricket (a favorite Pakistani sport) or playing with her friends after school, Samera Rahmak, 13, works to free children in her community from slavery.

While most countries have laws against slavery – including Pakistan – some families in this South Asian country are so poor that they sell themselves into "bonded labor," often in brick-making factories, where they work to pay off debts. These debts are usually the result of a family emergency, like an illness or injury.

Once a family's debt is paid by a brick factory boss, the boss then "owns" the family, including the father, mother, and children and



Children of brick kiln workers hold letters they've written to President Bush asking him to help Pakistan put a stop to bonded labor.

often uncles, aunts and cousins too, until the debt is repaid. Many factory owners take advantage of the workers' poverty and lack of education, and trick the families or refuse to pay them the money they've earned.

Samera and the school she attends, which is run by a group called the Bonded Labor Liberation Front, wants to change all of that. "We are Free!" the children of these brick kiln workers shout every morning at the start of the school

day to remind themselves that they are nobody's slave. Samera counsels her peers about their legal rights and encourages them to attend school.

"I tell these kids that they don't have to work in the factories and that they should come to school instead," explains Samera. "They go and ask their parents, and if the parents say 'yes' then they come to school with me."

The factory bosses don't mind that a child leaves because it means that it will take the family longer to

AFTER THE QUAKE

The earthquake on October 8, 2005, killed more than 80,000 people. Before the disaster, many residents were wary of any American influence. But now each child carries a backpack with the U.S. Aid for International Development logo on it and "from the American people," written in Urdu. Many Pakistanis say that the people of Pakistan and the U.S. should support one another no matter what our governments do.

-COMMON LANGUAGE PROJECT

repay the money. When Javeria Yonis, 8, asked her dad if she could start attending school instead of working, he granted permission. Though her mother and father still work in the factory, she hopes that through gaining an education she will be able to break the cycle of bonded labor in her family.

indykids

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WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is an all-volunteer project of NYC Indymedia. The free newspaper aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org

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PURPLE STAR: \$400

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Immigration Debate Continues

PRESIDENT BUSH ADDED his voice to the simmering immigration debate with a national televised address on May 15. His most controversial proposal was to deploy 6,000 U.S. National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border. Immigrant advocates point out that enforcement at this border has already been costly, but it hasn't stopped border crossings. Instead, it has caused the deaths of some 4,000 people in the desert over the last 12 years. People still risk crossing the desert because they need jobs. But they cannot get the documents they need to enter and work legally in the U.S.

On May 26 the Senate passed an immigration bill that must now be merged with the House immi-



Millions rallied for justice for immigrants at demonstrations across the country on May 1, International Workers Day.

gration bill before a final vote. The Senate bill includes measures that put more border patrol agents and fences at the U.S.-Mexico border, and provide a way for some immigrants to become legal residents after waiting several years. People without documents who have been in the U.S. for less than two years would be required to leave.

"Immigrants should be given legal status to work in the U.S. and they should not be treated as second-

class citizens," said Leah Obias of Ugnayan, a Filipino youth group in New York City that works with Immigrant Communities in Action, a coalition of local immigrant organizations. "None of the proposals being discussed offer genuine legalization or justice for immigrants. As communities who are directly affected by these laws, we need to fight for what we truly want and deserve." **-AV**

Teachers: for curriculum ideas on immigration, visit www.nycore.org.

More government spying uncovered

In May the newspaper *USA Today* revealed that the National Security Agency (NSA) is creating a database of phone calls made within the U.S. President Bush says that the government isn't regularly listening in on calls, only gathering data about what numbers are called and when. The government says that this information can help stop terrorism. The database program has been going on since 2001, but until now, was a secret.

This discovery follows the uncovering of a different spy program in December. In that program the public learned that the NSA is listening in on phone calls and reading e-mail messages made to people from inside the U.S. to outside the U.S. The law says that officials must get a warrant from a judge showing that there is a reason for conducting the spying activities, but the President had approved wiretaps* without a warrant.

The spy programs raise questions about whether the Bush administration is violating the privacy of individuals in the name of fighting terrorism. And in light of the two secret spy programs uncovered by journalists in the last five months, many wonder what else the government may be doing in secret. **-AV**

*Wiretaps are hidden listening or recording devices.

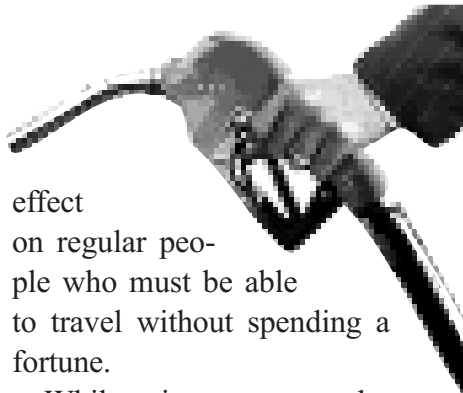
Oil prices on the rise

Many people depend on cars to see their families, get to work, and buy groceries. They fill up their gas tanks a couple times a month or more, and have very little control over how much they have to pay to fill up. Gas is made from oil, which can be found at only a few places on earth, and does not replace itself quickly. When oil reserves fall

and demand for oil stays high, prices begin to rise at the gas pump, and that is exactly what is happening now in the U.S.

There are two ways to lessen the problem: One way is to increase the supply of oil by opening up emergency stores of oil. The other way is to use less oil. Most people agree that in the long run, dependence on oil should be reduced through alternate means of energy and public transportation.

Oil is a political issue affecting U.S. foreign policy, and it has an



effect on regular people who must be able to travel without spending a fortune.

While prices go up at the gas pump, big oil companies are posting some of their biggest profits ever. In April, Exxon Mobil reported the fifth highest quarterly profit for any public company in history. **-AG**

News Briefs

NATIONAL

Lowfat Milk, Anyone?

In a new deal between The Clinton Foundation, the American Heart Association and three major soda manufacturers, sugary high-calorie drinks will be suspended from school vending machines. They will be replaced with bottled water, unsweetened fruit juices, low-fat milk and sugar-free sodas--drinks sold by the same soda companies.



A Spy and a General



President Bush nominated General Michael Hayden to be the next head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the U.S.

Senate approved the nomination. Hayden helped design the recently discovered secret spy program, and he defended it in his confirmation hearings with the U.S. Senate. In the hearings Hayden refused to answer many questions about the program of spying on Americans, the methods of questioning prisoners that some consider torture and secret CIA prisons. General Hayden said he would only answer these questions privately with the senators.

WORLD

King Pays Taxes Too

King Gyanendra took absolute control of the government of Nepal last year, claiming that the government had failed to stop a communist* revolt. But the king's government oppressed its people, and as a response, Nepal's citizens cut the king's royal powers and reinstated the House of Representatives. Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in the world. The communists, who control 80 percent of the countryside, say they are still concerned about foreign interference in Nepal and the people's rights to education, healthcare and jobs. They say they would like to continue peace talks with the new government of Nepal.

*Communists are people who believe in creating a society where all resources are shared equally by the people.

Sharing the Oil Wealth

Venezuela, the oil-rich South American nation, is expanding programs that provide discounted oil to poor countries so that poor people can pay for heating and other needed energy. In May, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez negotiated a program to provide oil and health services to poor countries in



Africa. Last winter, several U.S. communities, including the Bronx, benefited from discounted heating oil provided by the Venezuelan government.

Summer gives **bookworms** a perfect opportunity to read for fun. Here are some suggestions that will give you new places and ideas to explore, crafts to make and maybe even inspire you to write your own book!



Sun & Stories

CHEW ON THIS: EVERYTHING YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FAST FOOD

Written by Eric Schlosser & Charles Wilson

Did you know that if you take the 13 million hamburgers that Americans eat every year and put them in a straight line, they could circle the earth more than 32 times? Did you know that chickens are sometimes thrown against walls as a form of slaughter? Startling facts appear in *Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food*, which weaves historical summaries, shocking statistics and moving profiles of teens whose lives have been tainted by the fast food industry. The authors reveal facts that big businesses will not, such as what makes fast food manufacturing methods so unhealthy, how fast food workers are taken advantage of and how shifty advertising techniques are used to tempt kids to eat junk food. After reading *Chew On This*, you will not look at fast food the same way again. Some of you may even decide to boycott these businesses. **-LUCINE KASBARIAN**

Lucine Kasbarian is the Director of Progressive Book Publicity, a private concern that promotes social justice, activists-authors and their books.



GARY MARTIN

HOW DO THEY DO THAT? FROM AN IDEA

By OLINDE MANDELL

What is black and white and read all over? A book, of course! A book is made through a process called publishing, and it all starts with a writer and a great idea.

Did you know that your favorite stories were first discovered by editors at publishing companies? An editor assists the writer by giving valuable feedback, and by helping to shape and tell the story.

Once a story is written, it is sent to a copy editor. The copy editor makes

sure that there aren't any grammatical mistakes. **Can, you Find the mistake in this sentence?**

Book designers and illustrators are artists who decide how each page of a book is going to look. Book designers also create covers. The cover is important, because

although it has been said that you can't judge a book by its cover, people often do. A great cover can help a book jump off the shelf and shout, "Read me! I am a great new book!"

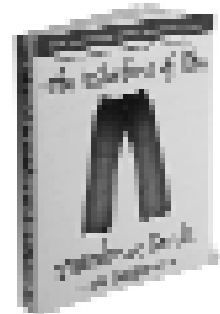
Publishing companies use printing presses where thousands of books are printed and bound on



THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS

Written by Ann Brashares

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants is a story of four friends who spend their first summer apart.



Sharing a pair of “magic” pants which they mail to each other, one girl leaves for soccer camp, one visits her father and his new family whom she can never seem to fit in with, one of them goes to Greece to visit her grandparents and meets a boy who she won’t admit she likes and the last girl stays

home and works at Wallmans.

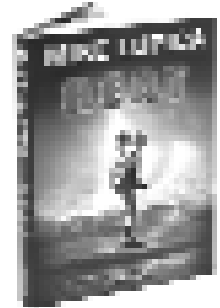
This story about four girls who learn to live apart for the first time is impossible to put down. I would recommend it for people ages 11-16. **-NORA MILLER**

Nora Miller is a 6th grader at the School of the Future in Manhattan

HEAT

Written by Mike Lupica

You know that kid in Little League who can throw what seems like 800 miles per hour? Michael Arroyo, the lead character in Mike Lupica’s book *Heat*, is that kid.



Michael, a young Cuban boy growing up in the Bronx, lives in the shadows of Yankee Stadium. He dreams of one day playing for the New York Yankees. With one of the best pitching arms around, he just might! But he must get to

the Little League World Series first. And getting there won’t be easy.

Blessed with the ability to throw fast, or as Michael and his friends call it, heat, Michael is also cursed by his circumstances. No one believes he is as young as he is, and he suddenly must prove that he isn’t older than 12, the cut-off age for Little League eligibility. The document he needs to prove this – a birth certificate – is back in Cuba, and getting it will be difficult. It will mean revealing a very important secret.

With steady support from his friends, Michael is determined to hold onto his dreams. But will his determination be enough? You’ll need to read it and find out. **-GF**

100 THINGS GUYS NEED TO KNOW

Written by Bill Zimmerman

What’s an appropriate way for boys to resolve conflicts and handle stress? Shouldn’t guys have the right to show their emotions? *100 Things Guys Need to Know* advises while encouraging boys to be themselves, and to avoid myths that males must be rough and tough.



Author Bill Zimmerman surveyed more than 500 boys ages 9-13 about what it’s like to grow up today. The book contains 100 life lessons

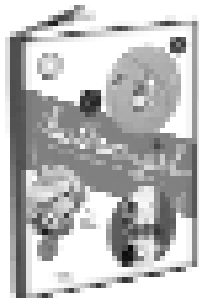
on topics such as honoring elder wisdom, standing up to peer pressure, developing friendships with girls, anger management, and coping with parents’ divorce. Anecdotes about challenges faced by famous men such as Nelson Mandela, Albert Pujols and Denzel Washington show readers that these men have experienced some of the same encounters of boys today. A former editor and Pulitzer Prize nominee at NY Newsday, Bill wrote this book because he wished he had one like it when he was growing up. **-LK**

Visit Bill’s blog: www.billztreasurechest.com/blog.

BUTTON GIRL: MORE THAN 20 CUTE-AS-A-BUTTON PROJECTS

Written by Mikyla Bruder; Photos by Scott Nobles

Once upon a time, before buttons were born, people used thorns, sticks and bones to keep their blouses on and their trousers up. Today, buttons are decorative and functional and come in every shape and size—whether covered in fabric, painted in bright candy colors, or sculpted from wood.



By following the instructions in this book, stylish girls can make more than 20 super-cute accessories bejeweled with buttons. Chapter One, “Fashion Fun,” shows you how to dazzle your outfits with uniquely designed accents. Chapter Two, “Button Bijoux,” demonstrates how to make button barrettes and bobbies, button rings, and change purses. Chapter Three, “Great Gifts,” contains projects to produce button magnets, stationery and gift wrap to make and give to friends or family (or just keep for yourself). Each project lists supplies required, step-by-step instructions, a diagram, and a full-color picture of the finished product. **-LK**

Q&A

The Birth of an Award-Winning Story: A Talk with Author Kathy Price

Poet Kathy Price published her first children’s book, *The Bourbon Street Musicians*, in 2002. It is an award-winning picture book about four old, wrinkly animals who become friends and set off on a journey to New Orleans, making music along the way. Ms. Price sat down with IndyKids to discuss the making of her book—and tricks of the trade.

How long have you been writing?

About 15 years, but mainly poetry.

How did *The Bourbon Street Musicians* come about?

I wanted to write a book for adults, but as a poet I had never written a story! I decided to experiment with exercises specifically for children’s writers. At the end of the week, to my amazement, I’d completed a first draft of *The Bourbon Street Musicians*! Unfortunately, I had written my story on a typewriter, and had only one copy. By accident, I threw out the first copy. I rewrote the story, but then my cleaning lady threw out the second version! When I realized this second version of the story was gone, I said “EEEEK!” But I wrote it for the third time—on a computer.

Do you have background in music?

I am a musician. I play the guitar, recorder, drums and piano, and I teach music to kids. Though I grew up in California, both my parents were from Louisiana and I grew up listening to musicians like Otis Redding. In some ways my book is a tribute to African-American musicians.

Do you have any tricks that help you come up with ideas?

When I’m trying to brainstorm, I make spider webs. I put the word I want to describe in a circle and write words that relate to it. I draw lines between all the words to make the spider web.

Do you still want to write a book for adults?

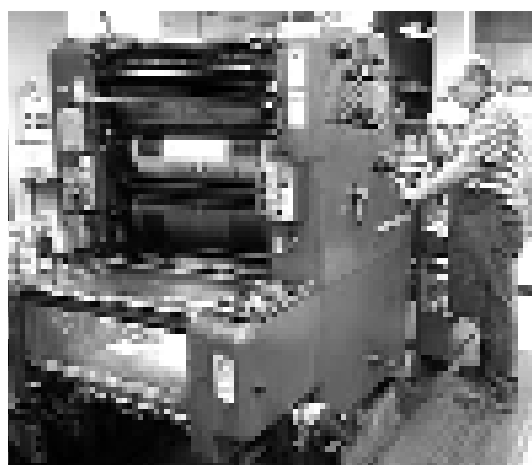
Sure. But now I’m working on a novel for older kids, and I’m enjoying it!

TO A NEW BOOK

huge machines. Then they are boxed and loaded into trucks and onto planes, eventually finding their way into your local bookstore or library for you to enjoy.

Do you have an idea for a book? If so, try practicing writ-

ing and editing your story with friends and family. You’re never too young to publish a book. Take it from Penda Diakite, who co-wrote and published her first book, *I Lost My Tooth In Africa*, with Scholastic Inc. at the ripe old age of 12!



K-STATE.EDU



Playing in the streets

Mick Greene used to play street games as a kid growing up in Queens. He founded the Web site www.streetplay.com to document and celebrate the experience of urban play. Mick talked with IndyKids about the games he loves.

What was your favorite street game when you were a kid?

We played all kinds of games: stoop-ball, stickball and boxball.

How old are street games?

A lot of the games on our website are from the 1930s and are played with a rubber ball. If they're not played with a rubber ball, the game could be older. Hopscotch is ancient and it's played throughout the world.

Who made up the games?

Kids evolved the games. And the rules are made to be adapted to the environment where you play. For example, punchball is a game with bases, like baseball or kickball. Imagine you have a tennis ball. You throw it up a couple feet and you punch it. If you're in a park you can play with 10 people. But if you have five people you play with half the field. If you have a kid who's better than everyone else, you can also change the rules.

How organized are street games today?

Handball and stickball are organized.



Kids in Harlem play scully, a game that uses bottle caps and a board drawn in chalk.

They have tournaments and leagues. Some are sponsored by the Parks Department. There are jump-rope competitions too.

How is play today different from when you were a kid?

Street games are great for kids, but they're not part of the culture anymore. When I was a kid in the 1960s, and until about the '70s there were less cars in the street and less structured activities. Today parents feel less comfortable about kids being unsupervised. There are more TV and computer games. When I was a kid, we came home from school, went outside and played with friends. That's what you did. I actually think it was more fun.

BUILDING A HEALTHY SCHOOL

Students at schools in New York City are getting involved in Pennies of Promise, a fund-raising campaign to build a new school in Appalachia.

Directly behind Marsh Fork Elementary School in



governor has not delivered on campaign promises to build a new school and the coal company refuses to take responsibility. So the kids and their families are doing the work themselves. They need about six million

dollars. That's a lot of pennies! Sundial, West Virginia, is a very toxic coal processing facility. Many students are sick because the air is filled with pollutants from the coal plant. They suffer from asthma, headaches and dizziness. Five school employees and one former student have died from cancer in the past 10 years. The kids and the community want to move to a new healthy school. For the Marsh Fork community, it's a matter of life and death.

While the government is responsible for providing safe schools where kids can learn, it has not done its job for kids at Marsh Fork. The

dollars. That's a lot of pennies!

On May 30, Pennies of Promise accepted its first donations from New York City school children. The pennies were delivered in wheelbarrows to the West Virginia state capitol in Charleston. Participating schools include the Bank Street School for Children, where the Pennies campaign has extended a year-long curriculum on energy and the environment, and the Harlem Link Charter School, which has a primary focus on active citizenship.

For information on how you or your school can be involved, contact: penniesofpromise@myway.com

En Español / IN YOUR FIRST VOICE / In English

Many students in New York City start school without speaking any English. But knowing and remembering a first language helps students to learn English and do better in school. If your first language is something other than English, practice it and don't forget it. You'll be glad you did!

Students at I.S. 347 in Bushwick, Brooklyn wrote this essay together about learning English.

YO VINE A los Estados Unidos para tener una mejor vida y para realizar mis sueños. Mi sueño es ir a la universidad para ser una abogada.

También vine para tener libertad que no pudimos tener en mi país y conectarme con el resto de mi familia aquí. Pero me siento triste por que extraño a mi familia y amigas de allá.

También yo estaba sorprendida quando vi que grande y fría era la ciudad. Me sentía rara porque yo no estaba acostumbrada al clima y yo no tenía un abrigo. Me sentía como un nadie por que yo no hablaba ingles.

Me tomo mas de uno en la escuela primaria para aprender ingles. Me sentía rara cuando yo hablaba en ingles. Las palabras no me salían.

Pero ahora yo soy la traductora de la familia. Yo entiendo al doctor y a otras personas que me hablan en ingles. Ahora se mis derechos y me puedo defender. Me siento como alguien. Yo se que puedo alcanzar mis sueños.

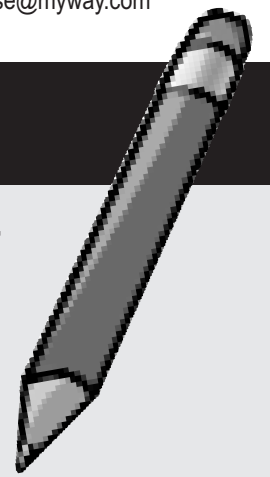
I CAME TO the United States to have a better life and to make my dreams come true. My dream is to go to the university to become a lawyer.

I also came to have freedoms that we couldn't have in my country and to meet the rest of my family here. But I feel sad because I miss my family and friends back home.

Also I was surprised when I saw how big and cold New York City was. I wasn't used to the weather and didn't have a coat. I felt like a nobody because I couldn't speak English.

It took me over a year to learn English in grade school. I felt strange speaking English. The words would not come out.

But now I am the translator of my family. I can understand doctors and others who speak to me in English. Now I know my rights and can defend myself. I feel like somebody. I know now I can fulfill my dreams.



Collectively written by Evelyn Acosta, 7th Grade; Jessica Guzman, 6th Grade; Richele Hernandez, 6th Grade; Escaly Pena, 8th Grade; Paola Quezada, 8th Grade; and Shirley Vera, 8th Grade



Movie Review: HOOT

By MOSES LEVICH

HOOT IS A fun new movie about three kids who are trying to save a colony of burrowing owls from being bulldozed by developers. It is based on the book by Carl Hiaasen, which is one of my favorite books. The movie is only moderately faithful to the book. Most of the time the movie isn't what I imagined when I read the book, and I liked what I imagined better.

The story is set in Florida, and one of the best things about the movie is its scenes of local wildlife, which include a white ibis, a great cormorant, several alligators, cottonmouth water moccasins, common snipe and, of course, the bur-

rowing owls. The owls looked real (I think they were), but they did not have the right call. The call we hear in the movie is actually that of a Great Horned Owl!

The movie wants us to know that we shouldn't let developers kill or disturb wildlife just because they want to make money. I like the fact that *Hoot* explains how people are destroying wildlife and polluting the environment. Maybe if enough kids read the book or see the movie they will try to save what is left of undisturbed nature.

Moses Levich, 9, is an urban birder and a third grader at The Renaissance Charter School in Jackson Heights, Queens.



NEW LINE CINEMA



Letters

Ten out of 10 students I surveyed said they could not live without their mothers. I asked 12-year-old Maria, "How would you feel if your mother had to be shipped back to her country?"

Maria said she would feel "abandoned and sad." Illegal immigrants should be granted citizenship.

MONIQUE
I.S. 195, the Bronx

Kids should make their own decisions whether to wear uniforms or not. Schools should let us breathe for once, so we can wear what we really like.

CHRISLENY
I.S. 195, the Bronx

Amnesty International reports that more than 40 countries have abolished the death penalty.

Students in my class also feel that the death penalty is wrong. Some people feel that killers should be killed, but I think there are better ways to punish people.

DRUNEA
I.S. 195, the Bronx

Most kids who do not work would most likely do the work if they had something to look forward to when they were done. My school should have a football team.

A football team would help kids get healthy, keep kids off streets, and it could help the school board raise money.

ZAQUAN
I.S. 195, the Bronx

Send your letter to:
indykids@indymedia.org, or to Indykids,
P.O. Box 1417, New York, NY 10276

DO ANIMALS LIKE ZOOS?

HAVE YOU EVER seen a bear or a lion pacing or biting at cage bars? Caged in a small unnatural habitat, many animals become bored, overweight, depressed and likely to adopt other abnormal behaviors.

Several zoos have recently decided to close their elephant exhibits and send the elephants to wildlife sanctuaries, where they are happier living in larger spaces.

Animal advocates encourage people to tell zoos not to breed animals and to make sure there is extra space for fewer animals. Some zoos are developing more humane and innovative programs such as providing refuge for rescued animals and creating satellite links to animals in their natural habitats. Advocates say that the most effective way to save endangered species and to keep animals happy is by saving their natural habitats and letting them live in the wild, not by keeping them in zoos. **-AV**

NYC Wildlife

New York City has not one, but five zoos and an aquarium. There's a home for native and exotic animals in each of the city's five boroughs. Each issue, IndyKids will explore one zoo.



STATENISLANDUSA.COM

This issue: **THE STATEN ISLAND ZOO**

History: This urban zoo was built in 1936 as part of the Works Progress Administration, a program that during the Depression helped create jobs for the unemployed.

Highlights: Leopards, lizards and antelope roam the African Savannah exhibit. Animals and flowers native to South America surround those who visit the Ralph J. Lamberti Tropical Forest. Farm animals consider the New England-style Children's Center home.

Cool! New York City's weather-reading groundhog, Staten Island Chuck, lives quietly for most of the year at the Staten Island Zoo. But every February, all the television cameras flock to find out if Chuck can see his shadow! **-AG**

TRY THIS EGGSPERIMENT

TAKE A RAW egg and put it in a glass. Cover the egg with vinegar. Look at it a couple hours later and you will see bubbles all over the outside of the egg. This is a chemical reaction. The vinegar combines with the molecules of the egg shell to form a gas: carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Change the vinegar twice a day. In a couple days the eggshell will be completely gone. What you have now is one giant cell! While most cells are microscopic, an egg is a type of cell that you can see without a microscope. Handle the egg gently and throw it away in a day as it will start to smell. **-By Harriet Vender, 7th and 8th grade science teacher**

Have some fun while staying in a hotel, visiting relatives or waiting in line for amusement rides...

Games for Planes & Trains (and automobiles)

THE MIME RHYME

Get two or more players together and choose one to be the mime. The other players pick a word that the mime must guess. The players offer a hint by giving a word that the secret word rhymes with. The mime tries to act out the answer without talking.

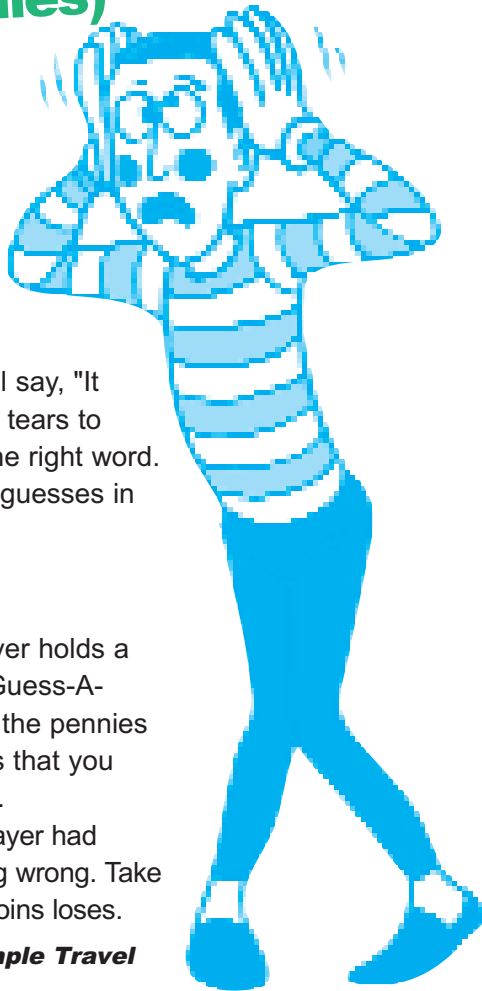
For example, if the word is pie, the players will say, "It rhymes with try." The mime may then wipe away tears to stand for cry. This goes on until the mime gets the right word. Then it's time for another player. The mime who guesses in the fewest tries wins the game.

GUESS-A-PENNY

Start with 10 pennies in your pocket. One player holds a secret number of pennies in her fist and says, "Guess-A-Penny!" If your guess is right, you get to take all the pennies in the other player's hand. A wrong guess means that you must give up the difference from your own stash.

Suppose you said four pennies but the other player had seven. You have to give up three pennies for being wrong. Take turns guessing, and the first person to run out of coins loses.

- Games ideas are from the book *60 Super Simple Travel Games* by Jill Smolinski



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words? Look up and down, side to side, backwards and forwards, and diagonally.

IMMIGRANTS	R	S	I	S	I	O	R	Y	P	S	B	P	Y	A
VENEZUELA	T	P	M	L	E	I	X	A	B	A	K	E	R	D
HEALTH	L	E	M	N	I	G	K	R	E	M	C	S	O	O
SPY	Q	B	I	L	I	I	U	N	E	P	A	L	Y	S
SODA	D	R	G	L	S	E	O	G	N	A	M	A	N	M
NEPAL	X	V	R	T	I	O	X	R	E	F	H	A	L	L
PAKISTAN	O	E	A	L	I	U	D	R	U	X	N	N	O	S
URDU	B	N	N	L	A	B	I	L	I	N	G	U	A	L
BILINGUAL	E	E	T	L	O	O	S	C	E	Z	O	S	D	L
MANGOES	W	Z	S	R	A	W	E	G	E	N	A	B	B	A
BOXBALL	U	U	D	H	T	L	A	E	H	T	N	O	O	B
DISEASE	E	E	O	L	Y	O	S	R	V	K	O	B	P	X
BORDER	R	L	Q	L	M	Z	E	N	E	K	A	Z	O	O
OIL	C	A	L	V	P	O	X	R	S	P	J	B	P	B
ZOO														
BOOKS														

Answer appears at the bottom of this page. No peeking!

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TRY A STREET GAME: BOXBALL



BOXBALL IS LIKE a small version of tennis or ping-pong played on the sidewalk. All you need is a rubber ball and two sidewalk squares. Each player defends his square. The lines around the concrete define the court, and the seam between the two squares is the imaginary net.

The ball is slapped back and forth between boxes with an open palm. Smack the ball into your opponent's box; he or she returns it back to yours after one bounce or on the fly. If you step into the playing court, fail to return a shot, or if your return shot's first bounce lands out of your opponent's box, you lose the volley.

Depending on the neighborhood, the player who wins the volley serves, and the serve switches to the other player after every five points. In some games, only the server wins a point; others say that either player can win any point. Twenty-one is usually the winning score, but you have to win by two points.

Boxball is a quick, fun game made more exciting with spins, slams and shots in the corners of your opponent's square. Try it on your sidewalk!

- For more street games, visit www.streetplay.com

A "free paper for free kids" still costs money!

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